



**STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.

Governor

November 4, 2009

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Visclosky:

I've watched the Congressional debate over health care in hopes that the bill might evolve in a more moderate direction focused on lowering costs and expanding consumer choice and control. Instead, both Houses seem intent on producing unaffordable bills that are designed to strip decision making from Americans in favor of a federally-run system. The current House bill is the worst version yet, with truly awful consequences for Indiana, and I feel obligated to add another voice to the many you are hearing on this subject.

A partial list of the negative impacts on our state would include:

- * Billions in costs for Hoosier taxpayers through the mandated expansion of Medicaid to some 1/4 of our population. The official estimate for the first few years is \$1.4 billion, which would be bad enough, but never in Medicaid history have these original projections not been exceeded, so we know the real number will be much higher.

- * The Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), an enormous success and blessing to the 50,000 Hoosiers already enrolled and on its way to helping perhaps three times that number, would be terminated.

- * Hundreds of thousands of Indiana citizens would be forced out of their current coverage, and a similar number would experience a doubling or tripling of their premiums if their coverage continued at all. The notion that enormous new taxes can have any effect other than to raise costs flunks the common sense test in any Hoosier coffee shop.

- * The bill is a job-killer at a time when jobs and growth should be the single highest priority of national policy. The damage from massive new taxes on small business, and those specifically levied on medical devices, will hit our state particularly hard.

Hoosiers, particularly younger ones, will share for their lifetimes in the unbearable costs this scheme will add to the dangerous levels of national debt which other recent legislation is already making much, much worse.

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Please heed the sound counsel of Senator Lugar that now is no time to pile more taxes and spending on a fragile economy, nor to add yet another industry to those taken over by the federal government in the last few months. Please direct any efforts on health care to measures that reduce cost and expand personal choice and control, and lead your Congressional colleagues in giving first priority to the task of restoring a pro-jobs, pro-growth environment in our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter", written in a cursive style.